



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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VIRGINIA'S SOYBEAN YIELDS IMPROVE WHILE PEANUT, TOBACCO AND COTTON YIELDS ARE DOWN FROM PREVIOUS FORECAST

Dry conditions for most of the summer have adversely impacted Virginia's row crop yield prospects. While timely rains in some areas have been beneficial for soybeans, Virginia producers expected lower yields for peanuts, cotton and tobacco, based on conditions as of September 1st, according to the Virginia Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Soybean producers expect to harvest an average of 27 bushels per acre from 490,000 acres, an increase of 2 bushels per acre from the previous forecast of 25 bushels per acre on August 1. Production is expected to total 13.2 million bushels.

Virginia corn yields are expected to average 80 bushels per acre, unchanged from the previous forecast on August 1. Production is expected to total 32 million bushels, which is down 23 percent from the previous year.

The state's peanut yield is forecast to be 2,400 pounds per acre. This is down 400 pounds per acre from the August forecast. Production is expected to total 50.4 million pounds, which is up 2 percent from last year. Peanut producers will harvest 21,000 acres in 2007 which is an increase of 5,000 acres from the previous year.

Based on September 1 conditions, flue-cured tobacco yield is forecast to be 2,000 pounds per acre. Production is expected to total 36 million pounds from 18,000 acres. If realized, this would be 13 percent below last year's production.

Burley tobacco yield is forecast to be 1,900 pounds per acre, bringing total production to 4.2 million pounds from 2,200 acres. This compares with last year's average yield of 2,000 pounds per acre, and a total production of 4.6 million pounds harvested from 2,300 acres.

Fire tobacco yield is forecast to be 2,000 pounds per acre. Production is forecast at nearly 800 thousand pounds from 400 acres.

The state's cotton yield is forecast to be 586 pounds per acre, down 14 pounds per acre from August 1. Production is expected to total 72 thousand bales.

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U.S. Corn Production Up 2 Percent from August Forecast
U.S. Soybean Production Down Slightly
U.S. Cotton Production Up 3 Percent

U.S. Corn production is forecast at 13.3 billion bushels, up 2 percent from last month and 26 percent above 2006. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 155.8 bushels per acre, up 3.0 bushels from August and 6.7 bushels above last year. If realized, this would be the second highest yield on record, behind the 160.4 bushel yield in 2004. Production would be the largest on record as growers expect to harvest the most corn acres for grain since 1933. Expected yields are higher than last month across the northern and central Great Plains and Corn Belt where heavy rainfall during the month provided much-needed moisture for the crop. Yield forecasts in the southern Great Plains and Delta are also higher than last month as early harvest results are better than anticipated. Yields are unchanged or lower than August across much of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States.

U.S. Soybean production is forecast at 2.62 billion bushels, down slightly from the August forecast and down 18 percent from last year's record high. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 41.4 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushel from last month and down 1.3 bushels from last year. Compared with last month, yields are forecast lower across the central Corn Belt, the Tennessee Valley, and the Southeast. Hot, dry conditions contributed to most of the decline, especially in Kentucky and Tennessee, down 8 bushels and 9 bushels from last month, respectively. However, yields increased from the August 1 forecast in the northern Great Plains and northwestern Corn Belt, as beneficial rains fell during the month of August.

U.S. Cotton production is forecast at 17.8 million 480-pound bales, up 3 percent from last month but down 17 percent from last year's 21.6 million bales. Yield is expected to average 811 pounds per harvested acre, up 28 pounds from last month but down 3 pounds from 2006. Harvested area is expected to total 10.5 million acres of all cotton, down 1 percent from last month and down 17 percent from last year. Upland cotton production is forecast at 17.0 million 480-pound bales, up 3 percent from last month but down 18 percent from last year. Compared with last month, lower upland production forecasts in the Delta and Southeast were offset by the 15 percent increase in Texas production to 7.00 million 480-pound bales. American-Pima production is forecast at 793,000 bales, down 2 percent from last month but up 4 percent from last year. American-Pima harvested area is expected to total 289,000 acres, down 1 percent from last month and down 11 percent from 2006.



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